

# The Physician's BOOKSHELF



**YEAR BOOK OF ANESTHESIA (1966-1967 Year Book Series)**—Edited by Stuart C. Cullen, M.D., Professor of Anesthesia and Dean, School of Medicine, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Year Book Medical Publishers, Incorporated, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, 1966. 397 pages, \$8.50.

The contents are composed of lucid abstracts of articles of interest to anesthesiologists published late in 1965 and early in 1966. Figures, diagrams and tables are reproduced for more adequate presentation of the pertinent data but references are provided only for the original publications. The small size of the volume containing 392 pages makes it easily transportable and readily accessible for reading periods of short duration. For those readers interested in review of a particular subject, the abstracts are grouped under 12 major headings, including circulation, respiration, nonvolatile drugs, inhalation agents and technics, relaxants, regional anesthesia, obstetrics, complications, hyperoxia, clinical problems and inhalation therapy.

The volume is a boon to those students and clinicians who desire to follow what is being written about anesthesiology but who do not have access to many of the original publications or whose reading time is limited.

JOHN W. PENDER, M.D.

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**CONSUMERS UNION REPORT ON FAMILY PLANNING—A Guide to Contraceptive Methods and Materials for Use in Child Spacing, Techniques for Improving Fertility, and Recognized Adoption Procedures—2nd Ed.**—Prepared by the Editors of Consumer Reports and the following distinguished consultants: Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D., President of the Planned Parenthood Federation, former Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Sinai Hospital of New York, and former Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University; Aquiles J. Sobrero, M.D., Director, Margaret Sanger Research Bureau; and Rael Jean Isaac, teacher, editor, and author of *Adopting a Child Today*. Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., Mount Vernon, New York, 1966. 191 pages, \$1.75 (Paperback).

Many couples would profit from knowledge of the information contained in this inexpensive paperback book. The text is clearly written in nontechnical language which is easily understood by intelligent and inquisitive laymen. It is composed of three sections. Most patients will need to read only one section at a time although a few may have need for the information contained in each section at varying times in their married life.

The first section describes and rates contraceptive methods. The standard mechanical methods, the intra-uterine devices, and the various oral contraceptives are discussed in terms of initial costs, yearly costs, effectiveness, side-effects and practicality. The brands and products within these groups are comparatively rated.

The second section describes the common causes of infertility and provides brief descriptions of the tests and treatment programs employed for the diagnosis and therapy both for the male and female infertility.

The third section explains adoption procedures, the legal problems, the costs involved and the criteria by which various adoption agencies select adoptive parents. The advantages and disadvantages of private and agency adoptions are discussed in an unbiased fashion.

In each section there is a list of clinics or agencies which provide these services and referral centers which will direct a patient to the proper source.

The book can be highly recommended to that large segment of the population which expects accurate, factual answers to its questions about medical care. For some, the book may contain more information than really is required but each section is brief, clearly written and well worth the investment in time.

The highest recommendation one can give to this type of book is to order copies for distribution to patients. I placed my order.

EMMET J. LAMB, M.D.

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**SCLERODERMA**—By Marvin A. Sackner, M.D., Associate Director, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, Mount Sinai Hospital, Miami Beach, Florida; Assistant Professor of Physiology and Medicine, University of Miami Medical School; American College of Physicians Research Fellow, 1961-1964. (Modern Medical Monographs: Irving S. Wright, M.D., Editor in Chief.) Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1966. 174 pages, \$13.75.

This is a monograph on the clinical aspects of scleroderma, a multisystem disease of interest to most physicians. The book reviews the many manifestations of the disease, and records the experience gained by the author in studying 65 patients at the Philadelphia General Hospital over a six-year period. Dr. Sackner is to be commended for recognizing the need for a single reference covering all aspects of scleroderma. As in most clinical reviews written by a single author the discussions are uneven. However, the chapters on the cardiopulmonary manifestations, representing the primary interest of the author, are excellent and thorough. The photographs which demonstrate the clinical, histological, and radiological features of the disease are quite useful. The bibliography consists of 516 references.

One criticism of the book is that recent biochemical and immunological advances in scleroderma have been scantily reviewed. The rather extensive literature concerning catecholamine and tryptophane metabolism receives only one paragraph. Immunologic changes, i.e., circulating antinuclear and antitissue antibodies and their possible relationship to pathogenesis, are not mentioned.

In the author's experience, 50 per cent of the patients died 2.2 years after diagnosis. This poor survival is contrary to the experience of most clinicians, and probably reflects the socio-economic group the author was dealing with. The chapter on therapy is quite concise, correct, and well written. The author reiterates that no therapeutic modality has altered the course of scleroderma, and